

**Alliance Point 7: Work together to conclude a hemispheric agreement outlawing illegal traffic in firearms.**

ACTION	BASELINE As of 1 Feb 98	TARGET	MEASUREMENT	STATUS As of 31 Aug 99
7.1. Both nations will work to ratify the OAS Firearms Convention.	Both governments have begun the process to ratify the Interamerican Convention Against Illicit Arms Trafficking.	Both governments will seek the ratification of the OAS convention before the year 2000 if not sooner.	Steps taken by both countries to achieve ratification of the OAS Convention.	<p>Mexico ratified the OAS Firearms Convention on May 19, 1998. It submitted the ratification to the OAS on June 1, 1998. The Convention was officially published in Mexico's "Diario Oficial de la Federación" August 20, 1998.</p> <p>President Clinton submitted the OAS Convention to the U.S. Senate for their advice and consent in June, 1998. An extraordinarily busy agenda has prevented the Senate from taking up the issue up to now. While the United States has yet to ratify the Convention, the United States is not only in compliance with most of its terms at present but has implemented the export side of the CICAD Model Regulations to control the illicit trade in firearms and has plans to implement the import side of the regulations in the very near future.</p>

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<p>7.2. Both nations will encourage all signatories of the OAS Firearms Convention to ratify the Convention.</p>	<p>The countries in the hemisphere had begun their respective ratification processes.</p>	<p>The U.S. and Mexico will use all means at their disposal to secure ratification by at least six OAS member nations by the year 2000 if not sooner.</p>	<p>Actions taken by each country to encourage the signatories of the OAS Firearms Convention to ratify the Convention.</p>	<p>To date, nine countries have ratified the OAS Firearms Convention: Bahamas, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama, and Peru. Mexico has begun a promotional campaign in hemispheric forums (e.g., OAS) and global forums (e.g., UN) to persuade other countries to ratify the Convention.</p> <p>The U.S. government continues to express its unqualified support for the OAS Convention in international fora. The United States and Mexico have worked assiduously over the period specified in question to see that the OAS Firearms Convention was not only ratified in the Western Hemisphere but its principles adopted by other nations through the negotiation of a UN Firearms and Ammunition Protocol to the proposed UN Transnational Organized Crime Convention.</p>

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7.3. Both nations will implement the provisions of the OAS Firearms.	Even though the convention has yet to be ratified, both governments are complying with several of its provisions because they are already covered in existing domestic law.	Implementation of the provisions of the OAS Firearms Convention.	Elements of the Convention implemented and elements of the Convention covered by respective domestic laws and observed in practice without regard to implementation of the Convention.	<p>Having ratified the Convention the government of Mexico has moved to implement it.</p> <p>Since the initiation of the Firearms Convention, an inter-institutional body was created (i.e., SRE, SEGOB, SEDENA and PGR). Mexico has demonstrated strong interest in establishing the Consultative Committee (as provided for by Article XXI of the Firearms Convention).</p> <p>The United States has implemented the terms of the CICAD Model Regulations, which are at the heart of the OAS Convention, and its present laws and practices mirror virtually all of the terms of the Convention.</p>

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<p>7.4. Both nations will encourage all signatories to the OAS Firearms Convention to implement the provisions of that Convention.</p>	<p>Since its signature in Washington in November 1997, the Parties have encouraged other OAS members to ratify the Convention as soon as possible.</p>	<p>Establish the Consultative Committee by the year 2000.</p>	<p>Full implementation of the terms of the Convention.</p>	<p>According to the Convention, the Consultative Committee will be established when ten countries have ratified the Firearms Convention. To date, nine countries have ratified the Convention. In this context, the Government of Mexico is urging all OAS members (through both bilateral and multilateral channels, as well as high level ministerial meetings) for the speedy ratification of the Convention.</p> <p>The United States and Mexico have taken opportunities to explain the terms of the OAS Convention and Model Regulations in the international forum and have worked closely in attempting to pursue the adoption of the Convention contents by other nations in other regions of the world.</p> <p>See 7.1. – 7.3.</p>

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<p>7.5. Both nations will work together to obtain expeditious OAS approval of the Model Regulations on the Control of the International Movement of Firearms, their Parts and Components, and Ammunition, as approved by both nations at the CICAD Assembly in November 1997.</p>	<p>The OAS General Assembly will approve the model resolutions in June 1998 (Caracas, Venezuela).</p>	<p>Approval of CICAD's Model Regulations.</p>	<p>Model Regulations approved by the OAS.</p>	<p>The OAS' last General Assembly (held in Caracas, Venezuela) adopted Resolution 1543, which approved the Model Regulations. The Resolution calls on members of the OAS to conform to the Model Regulations. The Regulations had previously been approved by CICAD during its XXII Session in Lima, Peru. Currently there are initiatives under way to convene meetings and seminars in order to promote the Model Regulations.</p> <p>See 7.3.</p>

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<p>7.6. Both nations will participate in discussion within the UN on ways to combat the transnational illegal trafficking in firearms.</p>	<p>Both governments are consulting with regard to their participation in the Special Committee charged with drafting the UN Transnational Organized Crime Convention.</p>	<p>The Parties will coordinate to ensure that a Protocol based in large part on the OAS Convention and CICAD Model Regulation is ready for final approval by the UN before the year 2000.</p>	<p>The Parties will take the necessary actions, individually or jointly, to aid in the completion of an acceptable and enforceable firearms Protocol for final approval by the UN by 31 December 2000.</p>	<p>During October 1998, the Parties held an initial bilateral meeting concerning how to advance the OAS Convention in the context of the United Nations. The Parties cooperated closely at the 7th Annual UN Crime Commission meeting held in Vienna in April, 1998 to ensure that a resolution calling for a firearms Protocol to the planned UN Transnational Crime Convention was approved with over 50 co-sponsors.</p> <p>Both countries continue to exchange information and hold bilaterals (through both the Special Committee and informal channels) on establishing the Protocol. The first round of talks was held on October 4-15 through the Special Committee chartered to finish the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.</p> <p>The United States continues to play an active role, not only in the UN Crime Commission but also in other international fora where the issue of illicit trafficking in firearms comes up, in support of an international global instrument to combat the problem.</p>